

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

Thank you for your efforts to combat the spread and impact of COVID-19. We write to you today to encourage to take another step to help Americans during this time.

The State of Arkansas has, with the support of insurers, issued a moratorium on plan cancellations for non-payment by individuals who test positive for COVID-19. Insurers in the state have identified that this is in conflict with 45 C.F.R. § 156.270. Specifically, insurers do not wish to issue delinquency notices in this circumstance as they will not be cancelling coverage.

We appreciate the previous steps that the Department of Health and Human Services has taken, particularly with regard to telehealth, and we encourage you to consider waiving the aforementioned regulation in order to give states and insurers the ability to assist those most impacted by the current outbreak. We anticipate that other states may follow Arkansas's lead in issuing such a moratorium and would appreciate the flexibility that the waiving of this regulation would provide.

Thank you again for your ongoing efforts to combat COVID-19. Should you have any questions, please contact [anna.wilbourn@mail.house.gov](mailto:anna.wilbourn@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



John Boozman  
U.S. Senator



Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress



French Hill  
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

Cc: Vice President Mike Pence